



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/798,656	03/11/2004	Timothy D. Killinger	29618/39225C	6319
4743 7590 07/24/2007 MARSHALL, GERSTEIN & BORUN LLP 233 S. WACKER DRIVE, SUITE 6300 SEARS TOWER CHICAGO, IL 60606			EXAMINER REYNOLDS, STEVEN ALAN	
			ART UNIT 3728	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 07/24/2007	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/798,656

Applicant(s)

KILLINGER ET AL.

Examiner

Steven Reynolds

Art Unit

3728

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 May 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,3-16 and 18-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 5,6,9,15 and 20-23 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10-14, 16, 18, 19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/8/2007 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

4. Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10-14, 16, 18 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Barber (US Pat 6,352,155) in view of Butcher (US Pat

5,485,922). Barber discloses a storage container comprising: a base defining a bottom wall (Barber Fig 1 ref 12) and a side wall (14 and 16) extending upwardly from the bottom wall to define a storage receptacle; a first cover section (70) pivotably coupled to the base side wall and movable between a closed position in which the first cover section overlies the portion of the storage receptacle and an open position in which the first cover section is rotated away from the storage receptacle and extending over a portion of the storage receptacle; and a second cover section (40) pivotably coupled (at 30) to the base side wall and movable between a closed position, in which the second cover section overlies a remaining portion of the storage receptacle, and an open position, in which the second cover section is rotated away from the storage receptacle; wherein the base, first cover section, and second cover section in the closed position are capable of defining an overall profile height sufficiently low to allow insertion of the storage container into a storage space having a low profile height, wherein the first and second cover sections pivot about respective pivot axes that are substantially perpendicular to the base side wall (Fig 2 at ref 34); and the exterior sides of the first and second cover define writing surfaces (Fig 2 ref 70 and 40).

Barber does not disclose that an interior side of the first/second cover section defines a storage pocket, wherein the storage pocket is housed inside the storage receptacle when the first/second cover section is in the closed position and wherein the storage pocket is accessible when the first/second cover section is in the open position. However, Butcher discloses a portable computer case having a cover section defining storage pockets (Fig 1 ref 67). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having

ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the first/second cover sections of the Barber case to include storage pockets, as taught by Butcher, for the purpose of housing additional computer accessories that are easily removed for use with the computer when the case is opened.

Further regarding claims 11 and 12, Barber does not disclose a roller and a handle coupled to the base near the bottom wall. However, Butcher discloses a roller (Fig 4 ref 75) and handle (80) coupled to the base near the bottom wall. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the base of the Barber case to include rollers and a handle, as taught by Butcher, for the purpose of better facilitating transportability of the case (column 7 lines 66-67 and column 8 lines 1-2).

Regarding claims 8 and 14, while the modified device of Barber does not disclose that the overall profile height is less than 4 inches, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to change the size of the storage container of Barber to be less than 4 inches since it has been held that a mere change in size/proportion of an invention is not sufficient to patentably distinguish over prior art. In re Rose, 105 USPQ 237 (CCPA 1955). See MPEP 2144.04 (IV).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed 4/2/2007 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Only a portion of the side panels need be clear for a mouse or other

Art Unit: 3728

elements associated with control or operation of the personal computer; the panels are large enough to house at least a small pocket (as taught by Butcher) and still function as described by Barber.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Steven Reynolds whose telephone number is (571)272-9959. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 9:00am - 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Mickey Yu can be reached on (571)272-4562. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

SR
7/11/07


Mickey Yu
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3700